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Former WKU tight end arrested for assault, public intoxication

BY JACOB DICK & JOHN REECER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

Former WKU tight end Tyler Higbee faces multiple charges after an altercation on Sunday morning that resulted in the 23-year-old's arrest and left the victim unresponsive with a brain hemorrhage.

Higbee, currently still enrolled as a student, was detained at the Warren County Regional Jail from about 2 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday morning and was held on a \$10,000 bond. He is charged



TYLER
HIGBEE

1:54 a.m. to find the victim, Nawaf Alsaleh, unconscious and bleeding in the

with second-degree assault, alcohol intoxication in a public place and fleeing or evading police, second degree.

According to a report from the Bowling Green City Police, officers were alerted to an altercation at Tidball's bar at 1:51 a.m. and arrived at the scene at

parking lot. Witnesses told police that Higbee had already fled the scene on foot.

Alsaleh was treated at the Medical Center at Bowling Green before being flown to TriStar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville due to his serious injuries. Skyline said that he was still in serious condition on Monday evening.

In his report of the incident, Officer Daniel Stone said he saw Higbee and two other people walking near United Furniture on State Street after the assault. Witnesses told the officer that

Higbee and others were in the Mel-low Mushroom parking lot and the officer said he observed them running through area. Stone reported that he yelled "Police, stop! Police, stop!" while pursuing on foot. Higbee concealed himself in a tree line near the First Christian Church before Stone made contact with him.

Stone asked Higbee if he had been to Tidball's that night, and Higbee responded that he had been at Dublin's on State Street. The officer observed

SEE HIGBEE PAGE A5

FINDING ALEX

Student tackles injustices, transphobia

BY LASHANA HARNEY AND
ERICK MURRER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

Alex Miller never felt female. Ever. Something had always felt off. When he looked in the mirror, Miller felt lost; the reflection was foreign.

In October, Miller finally related to a word that encapsulates his essence and identity: transgender.

Coming to terms with his identity was a long process, but now the fear of bullying, the fear of not "passing" as male and the fear of the exorbitant costs associated with transitioning weighs on his mind everyday.

Miller, a transgender male and Chattanooga senior, said college has been a constant process of discovery. He developed a passion for marching band, found a job he loved in the athletics department and declared a major in broadcasting.

"I've done a lot of things that many college students haven't gotten to do, including discovering myself," Miller said.

Although having come out as a lesbian last summer, Miller felt this identifier was not an accurate representation of his authentic self. After meeting his current girlfriend, Courtney Smith, 18, of Bowling Green, the pieces started coming together.

"I've known something was off this whole time," Miller said. "I couldn't pinpoint [it], until I met people who were like me."

Since October, Miller has been in the early stages of his transition.

Miller said he began gender therapy in February, a legal requirement before he could receive testosterone. However, because there is not



Lexington senior Alex Miller, who is a transgender man, jokes with his girlfriend Courtney Smith while visiting Miller's doctor so he can begin testosterone injections on March 23. The testosterone, which he plans to take for the rest of his life, will deepen his voice, increase his muscle mass and spur facial hair growth but has the potential side effects of making his voice crack and increasing acne. "It's like going through puberty again," Miller said. Both Miller and Smith said they felt nervous and excited. "I feel like a new man," Alex said after the injection. **MIKE CLARK/HERALD**

Miller said that coming to terms with his identity and learning to love himself was not an easy task. However, starting testosterone has been exciting.

"Initially, it was just like sheer excitement," he said. "I was so excited. I could feel the [testosterone] in my leg ... it's been a long time coming."

he said he wishes the all-gender bathrooms were in more buildings.

"It's such a huge deal," Miller said. "I can't go into the [womens' restroom], and I don't feel comfortable going into the [mens' restroom] all the time. It just depends on how busy it is. If it's class change, I will not go to the bathroom."

They can just ask me."

With graduation inching closer, Miller was worried he wouldn't be able to legally change his name in time so his diploma would have his preferred name and not the name given to him at birth.

Tiffany Robinson, university registrar, said currently enrolled students can change their name by submitting a name change form, which is located on the registrar's website, and a copy of their social security card with the updated name.

While students need to have their names changed legally for them to be reflected in the system, students can identify a preferred name specifically for their diploma. She is currently working on a preferred name policy.

Miller said besides the hoops he had to jump through to get his name changed, WKU lacks resources for LGBT students and, more specifically, for transgender students. Miller said just having someone to talk to would be nice, but also having resources such as pamphlets and counseling would help.

SEE ALEX MILLER PAGE A2

According to the most recent report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, out of **6,450 transgender and gender nonconforming students** in the United States and U.S. territories, **19 percent of respondents** expressing transgender indientiy or gender non-conformity in higher education reported being denied access to gender appropriate housing **five percent were denied campus housing all together**. Eleven percent lost or **could not get financial aid or scholarships** because of gender identity or expression.

any form of gender therapy services in Bowling Green, Miller completed sessions with a licensed gender therapist via Skype.

With one obstacle out of the way, Miller started testosterone injections in March, a process that is helping Miller learn to love his body.

"When I look at myself in the mirror, I hate knowing that I have female parts and I'm not female," he said.

Miller said he hopes testosterone will alleviate some of his fears.

One of his greatest fears is going to the bathroom.

"My greatest fear is to be discovered and being jumped in the bathroom and no one can help me," Miller said. "I'm too weak to defend myself."

While Miller is glad WKU made the step in the right direction with adding all-gender restrooms to campus,

Miller said being out at his job also presents its own set of challenges.

"At work, I've had to have long, drawn-out, individual conversations with every single person," he said. "They just don't understand. I can't blame them because a lot of stuff that I know about [being transgender], I've had to research, but if they've never met anyone who's like me, they don't have to go online.



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ALEX MILLER

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Miller said an option for gender-neutral housing would benefit transgender students who choose to live on campus. While Miller has previously lived on campus, he wasn't out at the time. However, he said if he was out, he would not have felt comfortable being forced to live in an all female dorm.

No university in Kentucky offers gender-neutral housing, according to campuspride.org. However, the University of Louisville implemented apartment-style living with the theme of celebrating LGBT identity and social living in 2012.

LGBT students — even if they don't live on campus — face discrimination when renting. In Kentucky, there is no law or ordinance protecting members of the LGBT community from discrimination.

Transgender and gender nonconforming persons are more likely to be harassed and bullied, leading to a higher rate of persons who attempt suicide within those populations. Among college graduates, 33 percent have attempted suicide; for transgender and gender nonconforming persons who did not attend college, the rate is much higher.

Miller is not immune to harassment.

The obstacles he faces always stem from being defined by his body parts, he said. One encounter at his job even pushed Miller to tears.

"There was a girl I worked with, and she refused to call me by male pronouns," he said. "She [said], 'You're still a girl if you have a pussy.'"

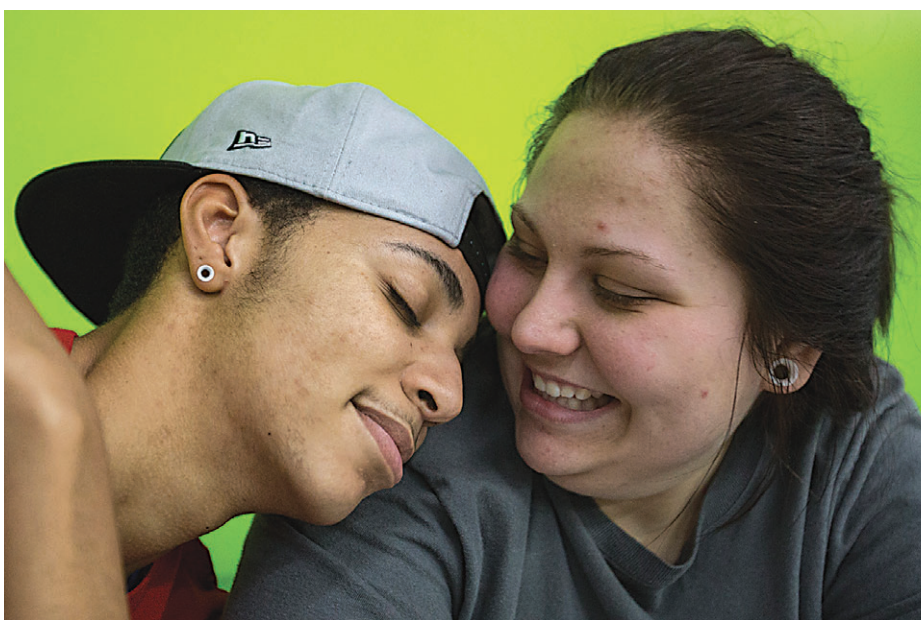
Miller also lacked support from his mother. His mother isn't aware of his transgender identity, but he had first come out to his mother as lesbian.

"It's hard enough for her," Miller said. "I didn't want to have another coming out because she never came to terms with the first one ... I'm just doing this on my own, and when she wants to come back into my life, this is who she's going to see."

If it wasn't for Miller's support group, including his girlfriend, the inclusive community of the marching band and groups dedicated to transgender persons on Facebook, he said he wouldn't know what to do.

"I have an amazing girlfriend," he said. "I don't know how I can do anything without her."

Smith said she's proud to see Miller grow and become more comfortable with himself. Miller's identity as a transgender male didn't stop Smith from loving him, because, while Miller's identity as a transgender man is a



Lexington senior Alex Miller leans on his girlfriend Courtney Smith's shoulder on Feb. 20. Miller, who is a transgender man, met Smith before he came out as transgender. "I wasn't sure how it would affect our relationship since she would have to change names and pronouns all of a sudden, but she's been so supportive," Miller said. **MIKE CLARK/HERALD**

large part of who he is, Smith said he is much more than his gender.

"I fell in love with Alex because of his personality and the way he treats people and of how kind he is," Smith said.

Miller said it's freeing to finally live life as his authentic self.

"I don't have to put my happiness on hold so that my mom will be happy," Miller said. "It's not her life. It took me three and a half years to realize that. It's not my mom's life, and I'm completely independent. It feels so good to be the authentic me."



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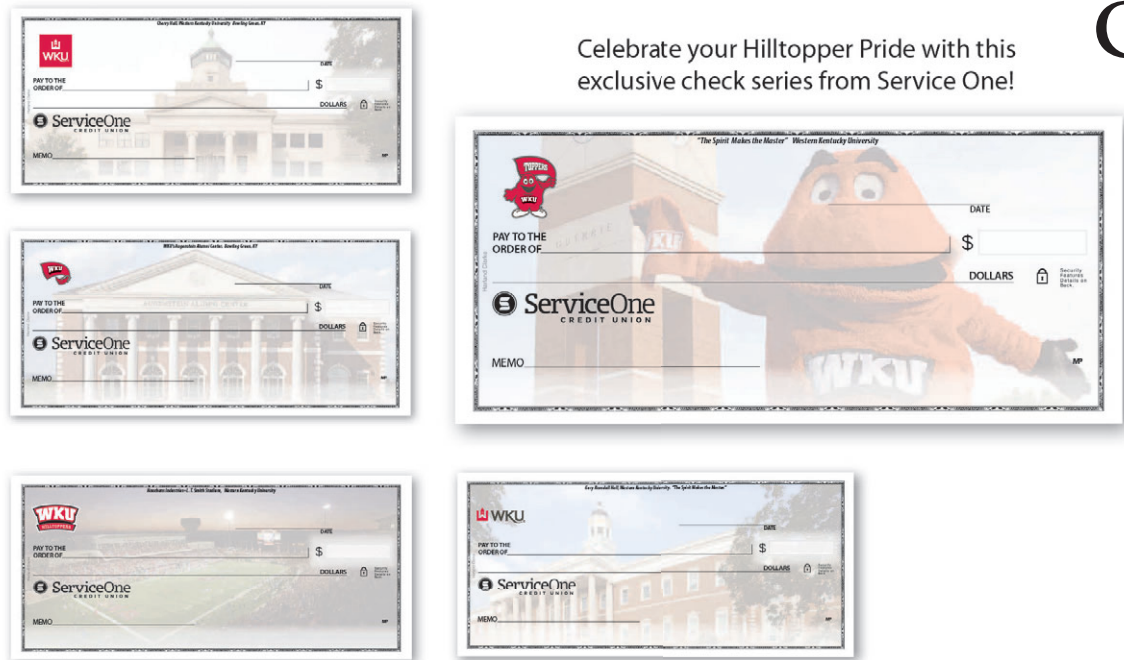
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WKU hears about importance of voting from acclaimed speakers

BY EMMA COLLINS AND MONICA KAST
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On Thursday night, WKU students heard about the importance of voting from two nationally acclaimed speakers at two events focused on accessibility in voting.

Political journalist and author Ari Berman was in the Mass Media Auditorium to speak about his latest book, which discusses voter rights in the United States.

Berman was invited to speak by the Fleischaker-Greene course Power, Privilege, and Democracy co-taught by professors Amanda Crawford and Sandra Ardrey. In his book "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America," Berman looks at the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the events following the passing of the act.

"I thought it was really important to write this book because there had been so many written about the events that led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act," Berman said in his talk, "but there had been far less written about what happened after 1965, and I felt like it was really important to tell the story."

Berman said although the act was passed in 1965, citizens are still seeing restrictions placed on voters in 2015.

"A bunch of different states are restricting voting rights currently," Berman said in an interview, "states like North Carolina and Wisconsin and Texas and right here in Kentucky."

Berman referenced the executive order signed by for-

mer Kentucky governor Steve Beshear in November 2015 that Kentucky's current governor, Matt Bevin, overturned in December 2015. The executive order would have restored 140,000 nonviolent ex-felons' rights to votes.

Ardrey, political science department head and co-instructor of the Fleischaker-Greene course, said she hoped Berman's lecture helped her students realize voting restrictions are still a current issue.

"For a lot of students, this is an issue that has been settled," Ardrey said. "I hope that Ari gave a contemporary voice to this issue."

At the end of his lecture, Berman offered suggestions to eliminate voter restrictions. He said states need to offer online voter registration, early voting, same day voter registration and automatic voter registration.

Secretary of State Alison Grimes visited WKU on the same night while touring the state to introduce Kentucky's new voter registration website.

Rep. Wilson Stone, who introduced Grimes during the presentation, said he hopes the website will increase the number of registered voters in Kentucky.

"We want a democracy where everybody has the opportunity to vote [and] everybody's willing to get out there to vote," Wilson said.

Currently one-third of voter-eligible Kentuckians are not registered to vote. Of the two-thirds who are registered, only 30 percent turned out for the last election.

The measure was approved three weeks ago by the state



Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Grimes speaks about the state's new online voter registration system in Downing Student Union on Thursday, April 7. **ABBY POTTER/HERALD**

legislature.

"This system is something that is Kentucky proud, Kentucky made in-house with our talent at the secretary of state and state board of elections office," Grimes said.

Grimes called the state's voting situation "dire," particularly because of the low rates of minorities and youth who are registered voters.

The website, which is more efficient than the current method, will also improve the accuracy of voter registration by eliminating the possibility of human error.

Since the launch, Grimes said 15,000 Kentuckians have used the website to register or update their voter registration. Of those 15,000, about 800 are newly registered voters who

will be 18 by the November presidential election. State law permits minors who will be 18 by the November election to vote in the primaries.

The only difference in online registration is the requirement of a social security number. Social security are used a safe guard to prevent fraud.

Emily Houston, Winchester freshman, said she had not registered before Thursday night because the process was stressful and inconvenient.

"I had actually started the process last semester, and having to mail in all of that got in the way of me doing it, and I've been meaning to do it for a while now, and this took two minutes," Houston said.

Houston said she thinks voting is important especially for

youth, and the state needs to improve its voting statistics.

"It's the easiest way to do it," Houston said. "Phone, laptop, whatever you have — the option is there, so I think if it takes just a couple minutes of your time, then people will be more willing to do it."

Stone praised students who came out to watch the presentation.

"You're going to be the leaders in your generation because you're interested now, and you need to be having an impact now because you're shaping the world that you're going to be in, the world your children will be in, and the world we're going to end up in," Stone said.

Anyone who wants to register online can visit GoVoteKY.com.

University presidents suggest compromise on budget cuts

BY EMMA COLLINS
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

With very few days left in the legislative session, the presidents of the state universities met with Gov. Matt Bevin to discuss a potential compromise to resolve the debate on postsecondary education funding.

For weeks, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate have remained locked in a battle over the state's budget. Funding for higher education has been a sticking point with House Democrats refusing to agree to the cuts proposed by Bevin and the Republican Senate.

In an email to faculty and staff, President Gary Ransdell said he, along with the presidents of six other universities and the president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, sent a suggested compromise to Bevin, the House and the Senate. They hope the compromise will help the Senate and the House reach an agreement on the budget.

"It became clear yesterday that not accepting the reduced cuts to higher education would likely have resulted in a failure to achieve a budget agreement and, as a result, a shutdown of state government on July 1," Ransdell said.

In the proposal, the 4.5 percent cut for this year has been reduced to a 2 percent cut. Instead of losing \$3,359,200, the university will now lose \$1,493,000.

The 4.5 percent cut has already been put in place by Bevin through an executive order.

Attorney General Andy Beshear and House Democrats have questioned the legality of Bevin's executive. Beshear had threatened to sue Bevin if the governor does not reverse his executive order and return the state funds.

Beshear announced a suit against Bevin on Monday afternoon to repeal the executive cuts to state allocations.

Because WKU is in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, many of the funds have already been used. Ransdell said he will recommend at the next Board of Regents meeting on April 22 that the money, which must be returned to the state, come from the University Reserve Fund.

The fund currently has \$3,488,660, which is only used if any unexpected expenses arise. If the 4.5 percent cuts remain, only \$129,460 will be left in the fund.

"It is a longstanding financial practice at WKU to hold a Reserve Fund, which the Board has mandated to be at least \$2,000,000," Ransdell said.

After July 1, WKU will begin to replenish the fund.

The proposed 9 percent cut for the next year has also been negotiated down to a 4.5 percent cut. As a result, WKU will lose \$3,359,200 instead of the original \$6,718,400 during the next fiscal year.

"This helps but is still a serious cut to our state appropriation," Ransdell said.

The presidents also suggested a change to performance-based funding. In the original budget proposal, the Senate refused to allow the uni-

versity presidents to participate in conversations to decide the criteria for performance-based funding. The House, whose budget did not contain performance-based funding, disagreed with the Senate's belief that presidents should be left out of the discussions.

By law, the legislature can only meet for 60 days. April 1 marked the fifty-ninth day of the session, which is set to end on April 12. According to the Kentucky Constitution, the session cannot extend past April 15.

Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo requested the final day be pushed back to April 15 so a compromise could be reached; however, Senate President Robert Stivers refused to move the date.

Despite the stalemate, both sides have promised to have a budget by the end of the session.

Rep. Wilson Stone, during Secretary of State Alison Grimes' presentation at

WKU on Thursday, said he expected a compromise to be reached so a budget can be passed before the end of the legislative session. He also said the House will remain dedicated to protecting higher education.

"We're certainly interested in higher ed and are crusading for higher ed even as I speak now, and I'm very hopeful that we can leave you in a better [state] than some of the proposals have been," Wilson said.

Bruce Phillips, assistant public information officer for the Capitol, said if a budget is not passed by the end of the 60th day, legislators will be forced to meet once again to pass a compromise.

"If they don't have a budget, then Bevin may, at his discretion, call a special session to discuss a budget," Phillips said.

If a compromise can still not be reached by July 1, several areas of the government will be forced to shut down.

CORRECTION

In the story "Enactus team to compete in national competition" in our April 12 issue, team member Ryan Purk was incorrectly identified as Ryan Puckett. This error has also been corrected in the online version of the story. The Herald regrets the error.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporter's or editor's attention.

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OPINION



Have an opinion? Tweet us @wkuherald or find us on Facebook at WKUHerald as well. Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

SELF CARE

Take a daily break with a good book

BY MOLLIE MOORE

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU



MOLLIE MOORE

It's no secret that I'm an advocate for the benefits of reading for pleasure. Not only does the activity stimulate your brain, but it can also be a fulfilling use of the time you've designated for relaxation — and yes, taking time to relax is a necessity.

Getting caught up in a novel is just as satisfying as getting sucked into a TV series on Netflix, which doesn't seem to do much but numb your brain and turn you into a vegetable who won't get out of bed more than twice in a day.

I know by the time you've read all your textbooks, essays and other assigned readings for your classes, you are probably a little tired of reading, but you should really give it a shot. If you get in the habit of picking up a book that you don't want to put down when you get a little bit of free time, you'll be coming back for more every day. You just have to get started, and what better time to get started than today?

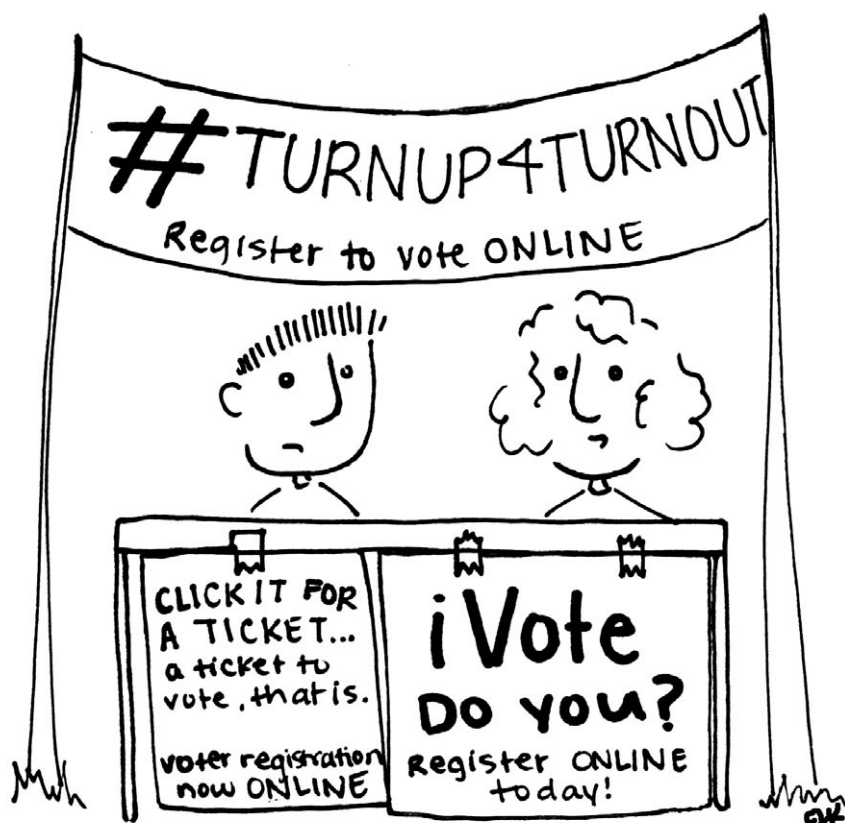
Today is Beverly Cleary's birthday, which is celebrated through Drop Everything and Read day every year. If that doesn't inspire you to go pick up a new book, or if starting a novel seems too daunting, April is also National Poetry Month. Grab an anthology of your favorite poet's work whether that poet is Shel Silverstein or Shakespeare.

Reading is worth getting in the habit of doing. According to the study, "Short- and Long-Term Effects of a Novel on Connectivity in the Brain" by researchers at Emory University, reading novels increases the brain's activity and function. Keeping your brain stimulated and increasing connectivity will help when it comes to memorizing information for a test or processing your textbook. Reading for pleasure will help you destress, but it will also help you get to your school work.

If you think you can't afford to go buy a bunch of new books, fear not. Helm Library and Cravens Graduate Center and Library has roughly a dozen collective floors of books to fill your time. And don't forget the Warren County Public Library; it's within walking distance of campus. Libraries are free, fun and quiet, so you can do your homework and take reading breaks all in one place.

You probably need to take a break for yourself anyway, so do it with a book. I promise it will make you feel better and smarter.

EDITORIAL



"It's all about appealing to convenience and the younger generation..."

ROCK THE VOTE

VOTERS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM

THE ISSUE: Voter turnout in Kentucky is very low and has been increasingly so for the past few years.

OUR STANCE: While Kentucky is lagging behind in some areas, it's making voting more accessible to people of the Commonwealth.

Last Thursday the author of "Give us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting rights in America" and political reporter Ari Berman spoke at WKU. Going along with the theme of his book and much of what he reports on, he discussed the dangers of voter disenfranchisement and the current state of voters' rights in America.

"A bunch of different states are restricting voting rights currently," Berman said in an interview. "States like North Carolina and Wisconsin and Texas and right here in Kentucky."

Berman was referencing an executive order signed by the previous governor Steve Beshear last No-

vember that current governor Matt Bevin overturned in December. If it remained the executive order would have restored 140,000 non-violent ex-felons' rights to votes.

Legislation like this is restricting citizens' right to vote and making our country less of a democracy, taking us backwards instead of forward.

Currently one-third of voter-eligible Kentuckians are not registered to vote and of the two-thirds who are registered, only 30 percent turned out for the last election. This is appalling.

Berman offered his suggestions on how states can cut back on voter restrictions. He said that states need to offer online voter registration, same day voter registration, automatic voter registration and early voting.

On the same day as Berman's lecture, Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes spoke about her new online voter registration system.

The system was approved three weeks ago by state legislation. This is the very first time Kentuckians

are able to register to vote online. Hopefully it will help to increase voter turnout during the next election.

You can register to vote online at GoVoteKY.com. It's actually really easy and a surprisingly fast process. All of the information you need to provide is information that you will probably already have memorized, like your social security number and date of birth. The one bit of personal information that might trip you up is finding your license ID number, but that's just because most people don't have that memorized. In this situation it serves as your signature.

The only difference between the online registration and traditional registration is that a social security number is required. However, it provides a pressure-free setting for anyone with internet access to register.

There isn't a reason that anyone who is eligible to vote shouldn't. Go online and register now, then mark your calendar for the next election. Your vote matters.

SKIPPING BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

The down-low on getting a glowing complexion



SCOUT HARDIN

SKIPPING BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S: Your weekly guide to having fun with fashion on campus.

BY SCOUT HARDIN

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

I admit I'm a sucker for face masks. I'm actually a sucker for any face product. Toners, cleansers, masks, lotions — you name it and I've bought it. They lure me in with their promises of glowing skin and pimple-free faces. I've bought so many skin care products that the

companies should probably send me an award.

When I was a young, naive girl, I assumed a flawless complexion came overnight and bought my way through the alphabet of skin care products in hopes of a quick fix. Little did I know that gorgeous skin is about more than a miracle product. It involves time, a simple less-is-more regimen and, most importantly, consistency. Follow these easy steps, and you'll be glowing before you know it!

1. Find a dermatologist. Your skin is the ultimate investment; you have to keep it your entire life, so treat it kindly. Getting a professional opinion will help you get on the right track with your skin care. As someone who suffers from acne-prone skin, I can

vouch that dermatologists' treatment can have a big impact. You might have to experiment with prescribed washes and cleansers at first, but the commitment is worth it.

2. Wash your face in the morning and at night. I also suggest you use your hands instead of a wash cloth to avoid abrasive materials on your face. And always — ALWAYS — remove your makeup before you go to bed. After you wash your face and remove your makeup, apply a toner to keep your skin looking supple and firm.

3. Pick the right lotion for your skin type. Whether you have skin that is dry, oily or something in between, there is a face lotion out there for you. I personally love Eucerin. I would also recom-

mend finding a face cream that contains sunscreen; you will thank me 10 years from now. Don't forget to apply a heavier eye cream at night to combat bags and under-eye circles.

4. You are what you eat. It sounds cliché but is completely true. Your skin directly reflects what you put in your body. Skip the sodas and drink a green tea — incredible for anti-aging — and water, water, water, which is cheap and accomplishes wonders. Fruits and veggies will aid in a spotless complexion. The less processed sugar you have in your diet, the happier your skin will be.

An unblemished complexion is completely attainable; it just requires patience and consistency. If I can do it, so can you!



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2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
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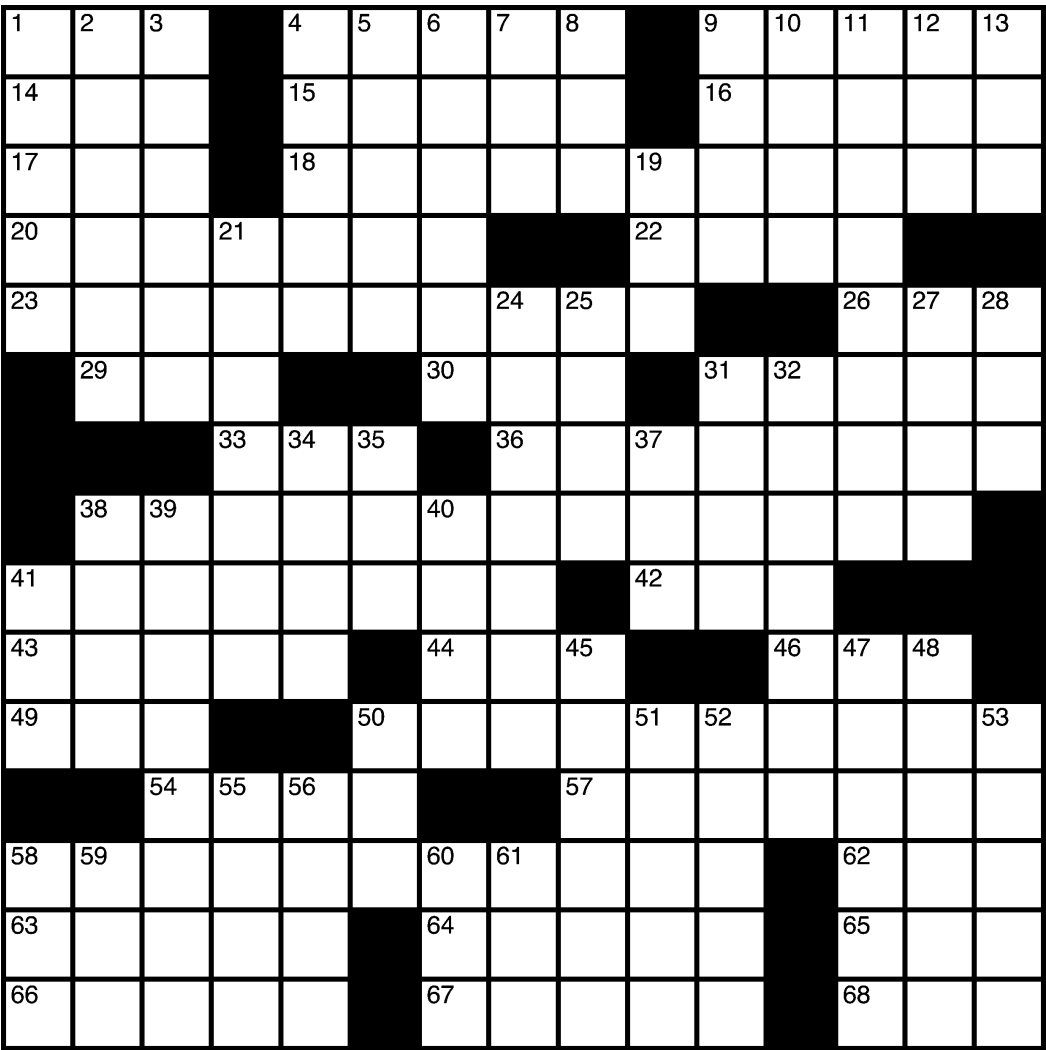
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HIGBEE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

that there was a cut with fresh blood on his hand and decided to detain and mirandized Higbee. Higbee waived his rights and chose to talk to the officer about the incident.

Higbee told the officer that a person of Middle Eastern decent had been bothering him and his girlfriend at Dublin's and approached them again at Tidball's while they were in line at Shogun's food truck. He also told the officer that Alsaleh was telling him that he wanted to fight, which the officer questioned since he was speaking a different language. Higbee told the officer that "he just knew."

Laura Harper said that she and her boyfriend were in line behind Higbee and his girlfriend at the Shogun's food truck located behind the bar when the

incident occurred. Harper said she saw Alsaleh and Higbee arguing in front of them.

"All I saw was that [Alsaleh] was there and Higbee was telling him to call his friend," Harper said. "[Alsaleh] looked like he was standing his ground. Higbee's girlfriend was trying act like it wasn't a big deal and was telling everyone that they were friends, which worked because no one really expected what happened."

In the police report, Higbee's girlfriend, Mollie Pajakowski, told officers that Alsaleh was "acting creepy" toward the couple and was "coming on to her" while they were at Dublin's Irish Pub earlier in the evening. She also said that there was scuffling between the two men prior to Higbee punching Alsaleh.

Harper said that Alsaleh was standing his ground but didn't seem confrontational.

Another witness quoted in the police report, Hayley Worman, said that Alsaleh was saying something to Higbee and said "No," several times before Higbee struck him in the face. She also observed that Alsaleh had his hands down the entire time.

"The next thing we knew, Higbee had knocked him to the ground," Harper said. "He wasn't there when the police showed up. After [Higbee] hit that guy, him and his friends ran away like cowards."

Harper mentioned that Higbee was much larger than Alsaleh and that [Higbee] seemed to be quite drunk. The police report lists Alsaleh as being 5'11" and 157 pounds while Higbee is listed as 6'5" and 240 pounds.

Harper said that after Alsaleh was knocked out, Higbee started to walk away but came back to yell, "ISIS these nuts," and "Go back to your country." Witnesses quoted in the police report

said that several of the people with Higbee were yelling similar slurs at Alsaleh while he was talking on the phone. Harper and the other witnesses said the Alsaleh turned away from Higbee while on his phone before being punched in the face.

This past season for the Hilltoppers, Higbee recorded 38 receptions for 563 receiving yards while also earning eight touchdowns. In his career at WKU he totaled 68 receptions, 1,054 receiving yards and 14 total touchdowns.

According to usatoday.com, Higbee was projected as a second round draft pick in Spril's NFL draft before the incident on Saturday night.

Higbee was also one of only two WKU players to be invited to the NFL Combine this season. He had recently visited the Denver Broncos training facility and attended a workout with the New Orleans Saints.



During the men's 110 meter hurdles, Martice Moore, right, a freshman at the University of Louisville, finished sixth with the time of 14.49 seconds. Moore competed at the Hilltopper Relay Meet at the Charles M. Rueter Track and Field Complex on Saturday. **WESTON KENNEY/HERALD**



An official prepares to fire a starting pistol to signal the beginning of the first heat of the men's 100-meter dash at the Hilltopper Relays meet at Charles M. Rueter Track and Field Complex on Saturday. Runners committed a false start and had to return to their blocks to try again. **GABRIEL SCARLET/HERALD**



Ashland sophomore Morgan McIntyre reacts to a successful pole vault warm up at the Hilltopper Relays Meet at Charles M. Rueter Track and Field Complex on Saturday. At least 15 teams were in attendance for the competition that saw WKU men's and women's teams take home a total of nine event wins. **GABRIEL SCARLET/HERALD**

BACK ON TRACK

BY GABRIEL SCARLETT
WKUHERALDPHOTODESK@GMAIL.COM

Track meets mean cold mornings, long bus rides, and athletes huddling under blankets and inside tents. They also harken back to the nearly 3,000-year-old tradition of track and field events, most notably with the Olympic Games in ancient Greece. Competitors pit their bodies and willpower against one another in the most primal of contests. Sprints, jumps, hurdles, javelin, hammer throw and several other events all showcased the fitness and relentless training of athletes from the 15 different schools in attendance. The Hilltopper Relays Meet held at the Charles M. Rueter Track and Field Complex on Friday and Saturday saw the WKU Men's and Women's teams stand out with a total of nine first place finishes.

CHECK OUT B4 FOR MORE COVERAGE



Runners fly high over a hurdle in a heat of the women's 100-meter hurdles event at the Hilltopper Relays meet at Charles M. Rueter Track and Field Complex on Saturday. Asia Bange of Marshall nabbed the first-place finish with a time of 13.78 seconds. **GABRIEL SCARLET/HERALD**

» **SGA Debate:** Join us tomorrow in Ransdell Hall room 2064 for the Herald Town Hall among the Student Government Association presidential candidates. The debate starts at 6:30 p.m.

Topper Tank ends pitch submissions tonight

BY SHELBY BRUCE
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Students have the opportunity to go in front of the “sharks” of WKU to see if their business proposals will leave them sinking or swimming to the top. This year’s Topper Tank Elevator Pitch Competition will take place April 19 at 4 p.m. in Grise Hall, room 240. The entry deadline for the competition ends Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Upon entering their elevator pitch ideas, students will be given the chance to come before a panel of judges and share a business idea within 60 to 90 seconds — the length of an elevator ride.

“In entrepreneurship, it’s common,” Whitney Peake, vitale professor of entrepreneurship and assistant professor of management, said. “You never know when you’ll be in an elevator with someone important.”

The competition plays on the television show “Shark Tank.” The context of “Shark Tank” is that entrepreneurs pitch their new business ideas and concepts to “sharks.” The “sharks,” in this sense, are high-profile individuals with backgrounds entrenched in business.

“If they can convince even one rich ‘un that their idea is sound, they can make a deal right there — but it’s just as likely the millionaires will, one by one, say ‘I’m out’ until the contestant is left with nothing but a week’s supply of facial egg,” Tom Shales, Washington Post columnist, wrote of “Shark Tank” in a 2009 column.

Although Topper Tank has not received many entries at this point in time, Dawn Bolton, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and assistant professor of management, said they are expecting many more to arrive before the event’s deadline.

“We hope that students have fun with this competition,” Bolton said.

SEE **TOPPER TANK** PAGE B2



Alumni members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, sing their fraternity hymn around newly initiated undergraduate members after their probate on Wednesday in the Downing Student Union auditorium. The spring 2016 line of new members were the first line in four years to be initiated on WKU’s campus. **LEX SELIG/HERALD**

DIVINE NINE

Alpha Phi Alpha returns to WKU

BY MADISON MARTIN
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Gold mylar balloons in the shape of numbers were brought into Downing Student Union’s auditorium last Wednesday night. The room was almost full from students and adults in attendance, and amplified conversations permeated the space.

At about 7 p.m., the lights dimmed and a line of linked and masked brothers entered through the doorway. The neophyte presentation, also known as probate, for the res-

urrected Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity had begun.

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African-American Greek fraternity founded in 1906 at Cornell University, had not been present on WKU’s campus since losing its recognition in fall 2011 following hazing sanctions.

According to graduate assistant student union manager Daniel McDowell, an Alpha Phi Alpha national member from Charlotte, North Carolina, WKU’s Eta Rho chapter was to return next fall. But some interested students met with the grad chapter based out of Fort Knox to persuade

them to organize the fraternity back on campus this spring.

The 14 students who now make up the resurrected chapter attended discrete information sessions early on in the semester put on by alumni to teach the fraternity’s history and ways. It is a process characteristic of National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations but not very similar to the Rush Week event the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council organizations use to draw in new members.

SEE **DIVINE NINE** PAGE B2

Senate candidate Sellus Wilder comes to Bowling Green

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Several patrons of Mellow Mushroom seated themselves around a table in a side room of the restaurant on Sunday as light filtered in from the windows nearby. With drinks in hand and queries in their minds, people fielded questions left and right to Sellus Wilder, a Democrat seeking the party’s nomination to run for Kentucky’s seat in the U.S. Senate.

Running for the Senate isn’t Wilder’s first bullet on his political resume. He previously served as Frankfort City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem. Wilder registered with the office of the Secretary of State on Jan. 26.

During the meet-and-greet event, Wilder fielded questions from attendees on a variety of different topics. These included the economies of eastern and western Kentucky, his support for term limits, women’s reproductive rights and the threat posed by the Islamic State to name a few.

In regards to the coal industries in both eastern and western Kentucky, Wilder said one of the biggest problems with the coal industry is that it is a motto industry, and people are very invested in that motto.

Wilder said there’s a need to diversify the economy in these areas of the state so they aren’t just coal dependent. To combat this, he said, more technology infrastructure such as more broadband access is essential to boosting a 21st century economy.

“We’re not going to bring new industries or new companies into eastern and western Kentucky without that level of connectivity, and that also makes the case for increased educational opportunities,” Wilder said.

Wilder spoke about his experience holding government positions in Frankfort. He said politicians often make decisions for the benefit of the short term and not the long term, and he said this is common in politics as politicians feel the need to make decisions that pay off in their term so they can ensure their reelection.

Wilder said imposing term limits would result in the loss of “some good legislators” as



Sellus Wilder, center, who was a Frankfort City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem, talks to supporters during a meet and greet on Sunday, April 10, at Mellow Mushroom. Wilder is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge incumbent Sen. Rand Paul. **SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD**

well as people like Mitch McConnell, Kentucky’s senior U.S. Senator and House Majority Leader. Wilder also said he would self-impose term limits and said he was looking at two terms as it would be hypocritical for

him to subscribe to this and not follow through himself.

“The real value of term limits is the fact then when you’re not worried about reelection, when you’re limited

SEE **SELLUS WILDER** PAGE B2

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DIVINE NINE

CONTINUED FROM LIFE

Greek Affairs coordinator Alex Kennedy said the NPHC rose in spite of unwelcoming attitudes during the early 20th century.

“Oftentimes in the course of history, the way of subverting a group of people was to diminish or to take away their opportunity for education,” Kennedy said. “The NPHC organizations were founded as a place, as a beacon, for minority students at the time — and I would argue still to today — as a support system to help them through their path to education because education is powerful.”

Brent O’Connor, a junior from Plantation, Florida, is fourth in this semester’s line of 14. His nickname is “Icy Architect,” referencing his major in architectural sciences.

O’Connor said he had various family members in NPHC organizations, particularly

with a history of Alpha men.

He kept checking around campus to see when the chapter would be revived and how he could show further interest and jumped on the opportunity to attend the information session when a social media post went up.

“I was pretty fortunate enough to catch it,” O’Connor said.

McDowell emphasized the importance of showing interest by attending information sessions and making connections with current fraternity members. Because the Eta Rho chapter, as a graduate chapter, was being restarted by alumni, potential undergraduate Alphas had the opportunity to work closely with brothers who were mostly business professionals.

“[The graduate chapter members] definitely gave us a lot of advice about being professional. There are definitely things that have been instilled into us that I’ll take with me for the rest of my life,”

O’Connor said. “Waking up early is a big one, [and] being on time ... That’s the idea, to develop disciplined individuals that are driven and aren’t ever complacent.”

O’Connor said the process of going through information

and reciting a plethora of information regarding their fraternity’s founders and history.

“It’s definitely not an easy process. The whole idea is to build lifelong bonds, and so a lot of that involves hard work with whoever else that you

a breathtaking display of synchronized stepping, singing and stating facts about some of the most integral parts of their brotherhood. The audience, filled with Alpha Phi Alpha alumni, other NPHC organizations and members of the community cheered on the men throughout the presentation.

“[It’s] bringing back a positive light of young African-American males really doing something with their life and trying to pursue their education ... and trying to get jobs afterwards,” McDowell said.

Kennedy said it’s a big deal to have Alpha Phi Alpha back on campus to round out the rest of the NPHC organizations, who are known as the “Divine Nine.”

“There’s something to be said about having all nine organizations on campus again,” Kennedy said. “All of our NPHC organizations are strong, but the identity that people associate with Alpha is of ... prestige.”

“It’s definitely not an easy process. The whole idea is to build lifelong bonds, and so a lot of that involves hard work with whoever else that you are ... working with and trying to achieve the same goal as,”

Brent O’Connor

O’Connor said. “A lot of studying goes into it, and a lot of spending time together goes into it as well.”

Members’ efforts made for

TOPPER TANK

CONTINUED FROM LIFE

with this competition,” Bolton said. “Any student can enter.”

Peake clarified an exception; students cannot enter if their idea involves anything that is illegal.

“We usually wait to look at them before deadline because we don’t want to seem biased,” Peake said. “The only thing we don’t allow is anything that could potentially be illegal.”

In the fall, Topper Tank is typically used for students who are potential candidates for the WKU Business Plan Competition, Bolton said.

“We are working right now with three students’ teams headed to a state business plan competition,” she said. “We encourage those who do well in Topper Tank to enter the Business Plan Competition.”

This spring, the center is using Topper Tank as a way to give entrepreneurial students a chance to present and

launch their ideas.

“Every student will receive feedback,” Peake said, “even if they don’t win.”

Many professors and local entrepreneurs will be hosts for this event so students can receive high-quality feedback from those who are experienced in the field.

“Our center’s motto is ‘Making Connections to and for Entrepreneurial Students,’” Bolton said. “Topper Tank is one fun way to do that.”

Prizes in the past consisted of a \$500 reward; prizes for this year, however,

have yet to be set.

As the deadline approaches, judges continue to hope that budding entrepreneurs will submit their applications and pitch their ideas even if the pitch doesn’t result in a win.

Those interested in becoming a part of this event can send their ideas to entrepreneurship@wku.edu, and the winners will be chosen the night of the Elevator Pitch Competition. All undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to apply.

SELLUS WILDER

CONTINUED FROM LIFE

on being able to run for office again, then you’re free to vote with your heart instead of by way of political calculation,” Wilder said.

Wilder also answered questions regarding his stances on women’s reproductive rights. He said he believes all people should have the right to make choices about their health, including abortion and end-of-life care. However, he said it’s important to understand both sides of the issue and understand

where people are coming from in regards to abortion.

“I see value in trying to reduce or limit second and third term abortions; I don’t think the way to do that is to criminalize abortions,” Wilder said.

Wilder said in order to limit late-term abortions is to fund Planned Parenthood to ensure affordable and easy access to reproductive services and to offer more realistic sex education.

A few people also questioned Wilder on stances of his foreign policy, specifically in regards to the Islamic State. He said a problem with dealing with ter-

rorism is we often arm the enemy of our enemy, and this can lead to negative situations later.

He said in the short term, we need to deal with the threat the group poses militarily, but we need to do more than just address the problem from solely a defense standpoint. Wilder said expanding education, humanitarian efforts and diplomacy would reduce animosity towards the U.S. and “get us more bang for our buck.”

“When we take actions that hurts folks that aren’t even involved in this ... we end up encouraging more animosity towards the United States,” Wilder said. “We have a relationship with the rest of the world, and I think it would help us to do our best to encourage a more friendly world.”

Wilder also talked about facing off against Rand Paul in the general election on Nov. 8. He said he’s looking forward to an opportunity to debate with Paul and said he could “go toe-to-toe” with him.

What has Wilder most concerned, however, are the six other candidates running for the Democratic nomination, especially Lexington mayor Jim Gray. Wilder said he’s been disappointed in Gray’s candidacy thus far. In his opinion, Gray’s intent for his campaign is to run on similar platforms Democrats in Kentucky often run on.

“I’m trying to prove to the party that we can actually run as honest progres-

sives and still compete in Kentucky,” Wilder said.

He conceded that his campaign would not be able to compete with Gray’s in term of fundraising. Gray’s campaign reported they had raised \$1.75 million, according to the Herald-Leader. Wilder, however, pointed to the defeats of Alison Grimes in the Senate race against McConnell and Jack Conway in the race for Kentucky governor to make his point that running on money alone won’t work.

Bowling Green native Chris Joffrion was one of those in attendance at Mel-low Mushroom. He said he believes Wilder is running for the right reasons and that his campaign makes sense and contrasts to Democrats the state has seen as of late.

Joffrion said he found Wilder’s confidence to speak his mind on issues appealing to him. He said he’s unsure if Wilder would get the Democratic nomination or win the Senate seat as that’s ultimately up to the voters of Kentucky.


“He has a much harder road to hoe in order to secure the nomination, and I think it really depends upon the willingness of Kentucky’s voters to get to know their candidates,” Joffrion said.

Kentucky’s primary election will take place on May 17, and the general election will take place on Nov. 8. The last day to register to vote for the primary is April 18.

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SOFTBALL

WKU wins 3-game series in close fashion

BY HUNTER FRINT

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU softball won its series this weekend against Middle Tennessee after a split of two games on Saturday and a close victory on Sunday at the WKU Softball Complex.

Errors on WKU's side led to Middle Tennessee's scoring most of its runs in the first two games.

Saturday resulted in a split for the Lady Toppers, making a win on Sunday that much more vital. The third game ended in WKU's favor.

"It was a good series win," Head Coach Amy Tudor said. "I felt like we should take three of three, but to come back after a tough loss in game one was huge and showed a lot of resiliency of this young team."

Game one seemed to be in the home team's favor until MTSU tied the score and held WKU with no runs in the seventh inning.

MTSU was held at no runs scored for six innings before it caught up. An extra inning proved fatal for WKU as MTSU scored a fourth run to take the win at 4-3.

Freshman outfielder Kelsey McGuffin and senior infielder Brooke Holloway scored two of the runs for WKU with one home run each.

The third run came from junior right fielder Taylor Proctor's RBI single. The offense put up a noticeably enhanced fight in the eighth inning until all bases



Sophomore pitcher Hannah Parker (21) pitches during the Lady Toppers' 5-4 win over Middle Tennessee on Sunday, April 10, at the WKU Softball Complex. Parker faced 33 batters and had 5 strikeouts. **SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD**

were loaded, but MTSU's defensive plays overtook the inning.

The result of game two was the opposite of the first; WKU won 4-3. The match followed recent trends of extra innings by going into a ninth.

The Lady Toppers' last match of a three-game series against Southern Mississippi went into two extra innings as well. Another trend that has developed is the final score being extremely close.

"That's kind of been our story for the

past six or seven games," Tudor said. "We're right there in it, trying to get over the hump, and finally we were able to do that in two games this weekend."

WKU held the advantage throughout most of the game, but MTSU caught up once again later in the game. RBIs notched by sophomore catcher Kayla Baker, Proctor and freshman utility Bryce Holmgren throughout six innings set the foundation for the home team.

MTSU rallied in the seventh as it came back to tie the game 3-3. McGuffin proved essential to scoring as her second solo home run of the day led to the Lady Toppers' victory.

The third game began at 2 p.m. after three weather delays. MTSU broke the trend of a late rally in the third game of the weekend series when it tied the score 2-2 in the second inning.

This was a back and forth game through the fourth inning. The teams took turns taking the lead with tie-innings in between.

Chaumont and Norfleet scored the first two runs for WKU with a couple of RBIs. MTSU took the lead briefly in the third inning, but a Holloway RBI brought in Proctor to tie the game again. Another RBI and a WKU run from a MTSU error won the game for the Lady Toppers.

"I felt like we played the game pretty consistent in all three parts this last game, with only one error," Tudor said.

Sophomore Hannah Parker pitched all nine innings of game two and game three against MTSU, which counted as her 12th and 13th complete games this season. Tudor complimented Parker and said she thought the sophomore did a great job on the mound this weekend.

WKU is scheduled to play Tennessee Tech at home Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Softball Complex. The next three-game series will take place April 16 and 17 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

TRACK AND FIELD

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

steeple chase with a time of 9:29.78 and Wyatt's 14-second time in the 110-meter hurdles earned him second place.

Sophomore sprinter Julius Morris captured a total of two events in the Hilltopper Relays. Morris turned in a season-best time of 10.54 seconds in the 100-meter race and finished first in the 200-meter race with a time of 21.11 seconds.

"I think Julius is a guy that can definitely compete at the top-tier level of C-USA which he's shown, and I also think he's a guy that is going to be able to

compete at the NCAA Division One Championship levels both indoors and outdoors at some point," Jenkins said.

Junior sprinter Emmanuel Dasor broke the 400-meter event record with a time of 46.55 seconds as Dasor, former WKU sprinter Elnyon Bailey and freshman sprinter Maor Seged finished the 400-meter event in a 1-2-3 fashion.

Seged also shined in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 53.03 seconds, good enough for third in the event.

Another impressive finish of the day came from the 4x100-meter relay team consisting of Dasor, Morris and junior sprinters Kyrie King and Ven-

tavious Sears that posted a time of 39.94 seconds.

The best field performance of the day came from sophomore Nick Demaline who placed second in the shotput competition with a throw of 18.20 meters.

Up next for the WKU track and field team are the Mt. SAC Relays in Norwalk, California, which begin on Thursday and end on Saturday.

"The first thing we would hope to get is good weather," Jenkins said. "Hopefully we can go out to Mt. SAC and have warm temperatures and be able to execute some of the things we need to improve upon."



Sophomore pole vaulter Morgan McIntyre runs to jump during the Hilltopper Relay at Ruter Track and Field Complex Friday, April 8. McIntyre finished seventh overall with a distance of 3.86 meters. **SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD**

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

One player who might be a fit for the position of starting cornerback is junior Joe Brown. After beginning as a running back, Brown eventually con-

verted to defensive back and became the primary reserve cornerback last season.

Brown saw playing time in 13 of the 14 games last season and recorded a total of 37 tackles, 24 of them solo tackles. He also featured a career-high

nine tackles against Indiana.

While those are great stats and display a promising number of tackles, no tackle was bigger than Brown's at the end of the Vanderbilt game.

During this game, he tackled Vandy's tight end at the 1-yard

line on a two-point conversion, therefore securing the win for the Toppers.

This tackle showed the ability to remain calm under pressure, an admirable quality in a starting player. The moment at Vandy and Brown's previous

stats give him a great shot at the starting cornerback position.

In the end, WKU's secondary team shows promise. Even though it has large shoes to fill, the defense has both depth and eager players who are ready to play.

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

run, Louisiana Tech's Jonathan Washam hit a three-run home run to give them a 4-0 lead.

However, the Hilltoppers answered with a big inning of their own. Duckworth and Scanlon both hit RBIs that scored Kraft and Hudzina. Soon after, Murray doubled to score Scanlon from second base to make the score 4-3 after the first inning, and the shootout was on.

After senior pitcher Josh Bartley pitched a scoreless sec-

ond inning, Kraft hit a home run to left field to tie the game. In the top of the third, graduate senior catcher Ty Downing singled up the middle to score Scanlon from second base to give the Hilltoppers a 5-4 lead.

After the Bulldogs tied the game in the bottom of the fourth, the Hilltoppers tried to surge ahead. Janes and Scanlon both hit RBIs to give the Hilltoppers a 7-5 lead. Once again, the Bulldogs answered — this time with a two-run RBI single that highlighted a three-run inning and gave the Bulldogs an 8-7 lead.

Hudzina came through in the bottom of the fifth for WKU as the nation's co-leader in hits hit a strike down the left field line to give the Hilltoppers a 9-8 lead.

However, Hudzina's two-run RBI would give the Hilltoppers their last lead of the game. The Bulldogs scored four unanswered runs, and the Hilltoppers couldn't plate any more runs through the final four innings as Louisiana Tech held on for a 12-9 victory.

The third and final matchup was the complete opposite of the second matchup as both

teams struggled to plate runs early in the game.

Junior pitcher Ryan Thurston and Louisiana Tech's Tyler Clancy and Casey Sutton kept the game scoreless until the fifth inning.

"The third game was the reverse role of the second game," Pawlowski said after game three. "I thought we went out there and did well with our pitching. We just weren't able to manufacture any runs. We have to be able to manufacture runs with our offense. Unfortunately, we couldn't do that in game three."

With two outs in the final inning, Hudzina hit down the left field line, making him the first Hilltopper to get past first base in the game. Duckworth singled up the middle to bring Hudzina home to make the score 3-1. However, it was too little too late as the Bulldogs held on for a 3-1 victory.

The series drops the Hilltoppers to 18-13(6-6 C-USA). The Hilltoppers will travel to Louisville Tuesday to face U of L. In the team's first meeting at Nick Denes Field, the Cardinals dominated the Hilltoppers and won by a final score of 17-0.

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SPORTS



» **Softball:** The Lady Toppers won their conference series this weekend against Middle Tennessee. See B3.

FOOTBALL

Defensive secondary looks to improve

BY BAILEY TOWNSEND
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For many weeks now, the WKU football team has been practicing in an attempt to gain some experience and to try to fill big shoes from last year's season.

When it comes to WKU's current secondary squad, it displays an interesting mix between returning starters and positions that need to be filled.

More specifically, this team has strong returning safeties but is currently dealing with finding new starting cornerbacks.

WKU's secondary helped contribute to a defensive effort last season that saw the Toppers allow 50 fewer yards in the air and 104 fewer yards per game overall compared to the 2014 season.

One safety in particular who will continue to benefit the secondary squad is redshirt senior and safety Branden Leston.

Beginning as a walk-on and transfer, Leston has the most tackles by a Topper secondary player since Brian Lowder in 2002, both with 96 tackles.

Leston started 13 games last season and appeared in all 14. His participation record brings much-needed leadership and experience to the secondary this season.

Leston also had a season-best and career-best game against Old Dominion in 2015 when he got 13 tackles, six of which were solo. This stat is the second-most tackles in a single game under Head Coach Jeff Brohm.

Another safety who will bring experience to the secondary is senior Marcus Ward. Ward started all 14 games for the Toppers last season and recorded 57 tackles. He also got significant playing time during his sophomore season.

Ward earned a Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week honor last season following the Louisiana Tech game, when he had a career-high 11 tackles — six solo — a forced fumble, two TFLs and two pass breakups.

Finding new cornerbacks for this year's season is going to be a struggle, but it's a struggle the secondary players are ready to take on.

Another challenge: finding players to fill the shoes of previous cornerbacks Prince Charles Iworah and Wonderful Terry.

SEE **FOOTBALL** PAGE B3

TRACK AND FIELD



Runners jump over the water obstacle on the women's 3000m steeple chase at the Hilltopper Relays in Bowling Green on Saturday, April 9. Miami University took the first place honors with a time of 10:52.68 by Alesha Vovk. **GABRIEL SCARLETT/HERALD**

RUN OF THE HILL

WKU TRACK AND FIELD CAPITALIZES AT HILLTOPPER RELAYS

BY EVAN HEICHELBECH
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The WKU track and field team could only host one meet at home this season, and it took advantage of that opportunity this past weekend.

The Hilltopper Relays, which began on Friday and concluded on Saturday, saw the host team win nine events en route to an overall solid performance.

"We had a very good turnout from an attendance standpoint," Head Coach Erik Jenkins said. "As far as the team progression, it wasn't a perfect meet, but it was a meet for us to go out and take care of some things. For the most part, we handled the weather well but we also saw quite a few things we re-

ally need to work on in order to be prepared for the Conference USA Championship and the NCAA's."

The Lady Toppers were most successful on the track as they claimed five first-place finishes. Junior sprinter Carrol Hardy and freshman sprinter Jadzia Beasley competed in the 100-meter dash, claiming the top two times of 11.76 and 11.78 seconds.

"I'm impressed with the men and the women," Jenkins said. "We had a solid showing across the board. I was impressed with both sides."

Hardy also finished second in the 200-meter dash, and senior sprinters Tashauna Yapchung and Shantol Hemley left their final mark in home events by collectively taking two of the

top three spots in the 400-meter dash.

Senior sprinter Jessica Gelibert also made an impact in her final home event with a win in the 400-meter hurdles via a 59.04-second time. Gelibert also joined forces with Yapchung and sophomores Khadijah Valentine and Ariel Terrell in the 4x400 relay to win the event with a time of 3:43.96.

The Lady Toppers collected 11 total top-three finishes across all events.

On the men's team, seniors Aaron Stevens and Vincent Wyatt closed out their home careers with top-two finishes in their respective events. Stevens claimed first place in the 3,000-meter

SEE **TRACK AND FIELD** PAGE B3

BASEBALL

Hilltoppers drop conference series to LA Tech

BY SAM PORTER
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The WKU baseball team hosted Louisiana Tech University this past weekend in a three-game Conference USA series. With the Hilltoppers coming in at 5-4 in C-USA and the Bulldogs at 4-5, both teams were looking to end the weekend above .500 in conference play. After winning the first game 6-3, the Hilltoppers fell 12-9 and 3-1 in the final two games to drop the series and fall to 6-6 in C-USA play.

"It was very frustrating for our club," Head Coach John Pawlowski said after the series. "Give Louisiana Tech credit; they pitched extremely well in that final game. With our offense, we have to be able to manufacture runs, and unfortunately we couldn't do that in the final game."

In the opening game, the Hilltoppers took no time getting on the board. After senior Austin King pitched a scoreless first inning, senior third baseman Danny Hudzina hit an RBI groundout to score sophomore infielder Steven Kraft for the game's opening

run.

After a scoreless second inning, Louisiana Tech pitcher Phillip Diehl walked redshirt sophomore first basemen Harrison Scanlon to allow Kraft to score his second run of the game.

Soon after, junior outfielder Paul Murray hit a sacrifice fly to score redshirt junior Zach Janes to make the score 4-0 after just three innings. However, the Bulldogs struck back in the top of the fourth with a two-run home run to bring the Bulldogs within two.

"Last year we kind of struggled at home," Janes said after the game. "This year we've really changed that. I think we've developed a better winning mentality. No matter what, we always feel like we have a chance to win."

With two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Bulldogs made another critical error. After junior outfielder Paul Murray hit a shot down the third base line, a wild throw to first base allowed Hudzina and Scanlon to score to extend the game to 6-2 after five innings.

Junior pitcher Sam Higgs



Senior pitcher John Harman (28) pitches during the Hilltoppers' 3-1 loss to Louisiana Tech on Sunday at Nick Denes Field. Harman faced four batters and had one strikeout. **SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD**

and Louisiana Tech's Casey Sullivan pitched scoreless innings into the top of the ninth. Redshirt junior pitcher Jackson Sowell came in to finish the Bulldogs off. After giving up one run, Sowell retired the final two Bulldogs to seal a 6-3

victory.

"I thought Louisiana Tech did a great job of running our pitch count up," Pawlowski said after the first game. "When the pitch count started to run up, we brought Sam Higgs in there, and he really set

the tone for us. I think Higgs was the difference today."

The second matchup started with the Bulldogs striking first early. After the Bulldogs scored the game's opening

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